



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

April 2019

Storm Clouds Parted for the Potter Yachters' St. Pat's Day Sail to the U.S.S. Thompson

by Carl Sundholm



Jon Barber sails across the South Bay with his beautiful Montgomery, OI' 44.

Reminiscent of the title of one of my favorite Irving Berlin jazz songs, "Nothing but Blue Skies" graced our first day on San Francisco Bay since 2018.

On March 16, 2019, a mildly windy Saturday, seven boats captained by Phil Marcelis, Rob Sampson, Harry Gordon, Jon Barber, Mike Kennedy, Ed Hultgren and Carl Sundholm, assembled at the Redwood City Marina for our annual picnic anchor-out venture to the wreck of the U.S.S. Thompson, for sailing about the South Bay, and for a

(See *St. Pat's* continued on page 5)

Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Kevin Crowder:

Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

- Burgees \$25.00
- Bumper stickers \$ 2.50 (just shows the burgee; no text)
- Patches \$ 2.50 (Both round and burgee shaped)
- Info Packets \$20.00 (Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to the CafePress website and buy a Cap, Stein, or T-Shirt with the club logo on it.

Visit: <http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters>

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The Commodore's Corner

By Eric Zilbert

We are now officially underway! Two primo events have taken place since our last issue: Saint Patrick's Day on the Bay, and the Richmond Boat show. Congrats to all who attended, and thanks to our organizers for getting us off to such a great start. You may have noticed that your Commodore was not present at either of these outings. This is mostly due to poor planning on my part; I should have planned better and be retired by now! Due to the need for sustenance, I have to pick my sails carefully. I am hoping to be onboard for the following events: Monterey in April, the Delta trip in May, the messabout in June, Loch Lomond in July, the Cruiser Challenge and Lake Huntington in August, Tomales Bay in September, back to Monterey in October, and hopefully finishing off the year with the Bridges Sail.

Deepest apologies to Goose and the Benicia Yacht club for not making it to the opening day festivities at the end of this month. Benicia is my favorite venue for a day sail, being right in my back yard (no port in Davis, not-by-the-sea, California).

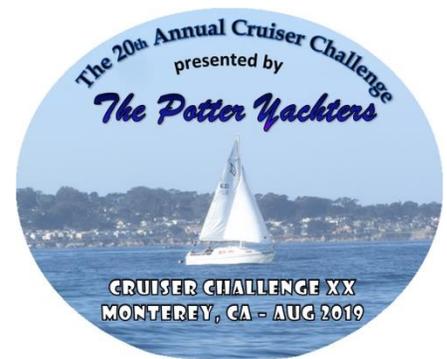
Still, yet, even, it looks like I will be out there on the water with many of you every month from now through November! A total of around 30 days on the water, not too bad for a landlocked sailor without a slip! Hopefully all of you have looked over the sailing schedule and will be joining us as much as you can this year. I am definitely looking forward to it!

Fair Winds! Eric — 

The Twentieth Annual Cruiser Challenge returns to Monterey, California from August 2 through 4, 2019, sponsored by the Potter Yachters. Come visit the Monterey Bay and join us in the fun and fellowship with other sailors as we test our skills in our class (small, medium or large sailboat) in a day of easy-going, friendly, racing. For more information and to sign up for the event, go to:

<https://cruiserchallenge.potter-yachters.org>

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW



Club Events on the Horizon

[See the Online Calendar](#)

May 4 (Sat)	Woodward Reservoir	(Tim M)
	<i>easy to somewhat intermediate if windy; overnight on beached boat or camp in tent</i>	
May 18 (Sat-Sun)	Delta Sail and Overnight	(Jerry B)
	<i>easy but sometimes intermediate when it is very windy; must have motor and plenty of fuel, in case of no wind; overnight on the boat at docks, usually at Spindrift Marina</i>	
Jun 22 (Sat-Sun)	Union Valley Reservoir Overnight	(Kevin C)
	<i>winds mostly from the southwest; wide launch ramp; anchor or beach for cost of launching</i>	
Jul 13 (Sat-Sun)	Loch Lomond Sail	(Goose)
	<i>somewhat intermediate Bay sailing; overnight at guest docks or Loch Lomond Marina</i>	

Upcoming: Woodward Reservoir Sail & Overnight – May 4, 2019

Let's Go For A Sail At Woodward Reservoir



Sail Host: Tim Mohrman

!!! Remember to print the inspection permit !!!

Sailing at [Woodward Reservoir](#), the wind picks up at about 2 p.m. until dark. It's a great lake for overnight trips. You can sail from sun up to one hour after sun set. There are three boat ramps with all kinds of parking. The weather can get a little hot, but most of the time it is from 85-95 with 10-15 mph wind. For the most part the shore is sandy beaches; little to no rocks at all.

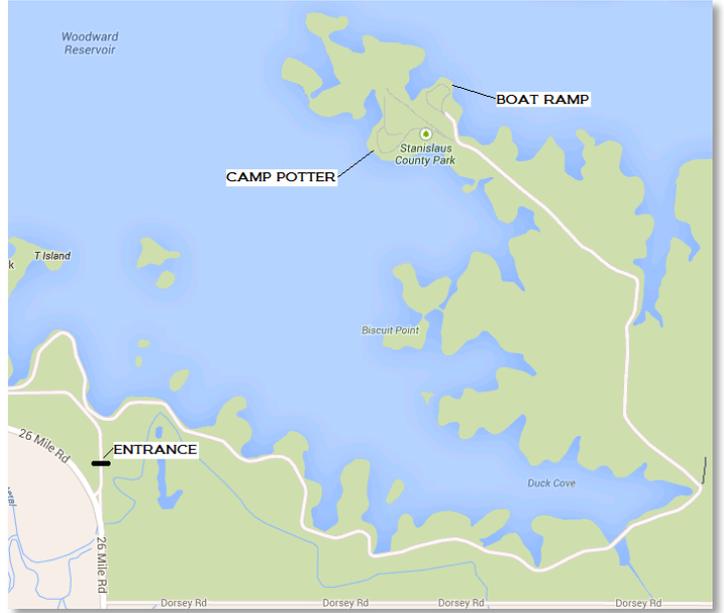
If you want, there are full hook-ups with water, electric, and sewer which you can book with [Reserve-America](#), or you can stay in the undeveloped area where we usually beach and camp. [affectionately named "Camp Potter" – Ed.]

Woodward is a great place to bring your water toys, kids, sailboards, kayaks, etc. And, don't forget some sunscreen and bug repellent. We camp about 10 yards from the shore. Some sleep in tents, some in boats, and some in RV's. Restrooms are pit toilets at the campsite, and you can commute to flushers & showers, if you want. No potable water at the campsite. Camp at [Area T by Pelican Cove](#), this area has a nice stretch of shore for our boats and provides good wind direction for landing and departing from the shore. This is the same location we've been at for many years. Campsites are first-come, first-served. You can estimate about [\\$25-40 in fees](#).

Launch at Bayview Boat Ramp. It's a short walk to "Camp Potter" and you will need to park your vehicle at the campsite overnight. Deputies patrol for license plates and DO leave "notes". Quagga Mussels are not welcome here, so make sure you print the [self-inspection permit](#) ahead of time. (See <http://bit.ly/1rHeGX3>)

Pot Luck and Happy Hour. Depending on the wind, heat & mood, we start the pot luck with one or more happy hour(s). We'll shoot for 6:30 PM. If you are early or late, don't worry about it. See you there! — 🚤

Directions to Woodward Reservoir, CA
Take 580 East/205 East to Tracy, continue on I-5 North, then take 120 East to Manteca and follow it through Escalon, finally turning left at 26-Mile Road. Woodward Reservoir is located at: 14528 26-Mile Road, north of Oakdale off Hwy 120. Look for **Area T**.



Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2018 PYN](#), page 3.

Officer's Club		
Commodore: Eric Zilbert Commodore@potter-yachters.org P-19, #629, <i>Riptide</i>	Vice Commodore: Rob Sampson Vice-Commodore@potter-yachters.org P-15, #367, <i>Espero</i>	Newsletter Editor: Phil Marcelis Newsletter@potter-yachters.org P-19, #1487, <i>Family Time</i>
P-15 Fleet Captain: David Bacon P15-fleet@potter-yachters.org P-15, #2636, <i>Ah Tiller the Fun</i>	P-19 Fleet Captain: Carl Sundholm P19-fleet@potter-yachters.org P-19, <i>Dagmar</i>	Webmaster: Phil Marcelis Webmaster@potter-yachters.org
Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin Crowder Treasurer@potter-yachters.org ComPac19, <i>Aurora</i>	Website: www.potter-yachters.org Facebook: fb.me/PotterYachters	



Upcoming: Delta Sail & Overnight – May 18/19, 2019
Join Us For More Fun In The Delta!

Sail Host: Jerry Barrilleaux

Our Annual Delta Sail is ON! We will be launching at [B&W Resort](#) at 9 AM for a nice sail to the [Spindrift Marina](#). It's located on the [Delta Loop](#) on the Stockton Channel. Launching is \$25.00 which includes overnight parking. The slip at the Spindrift is still only \$10.00 and it includes a key to clean restrooms with a shower.

The spindrift restaurant has the best food on the Delta and a great bar. Below the restaurant is a General Store. We will be having Lunch and Dinner on Sat. and Breakfast on Sunday.

The folks at the Spindrift are really nice and LOVE the Potter Yachters. They are expecting us.

To get to B&W take highway 4 towards Antioch, then take 160 towards Rio Vista. Go over the Antioch Bridge and get ripped off for \$6. [*\$16 with a 1-axle trailer... [Earl Desmond was wrong.](#) –Ed.] Turn Right onto Highway 12 and go a few miles, and just BEFORE you cross a Bridge turn Left onto Brennan Island rd. This will take you to the launching ramp. If you come up on Friday you can get a slip at B&W. Outboards are a must. [See [PYN-2017](#) or [PYN-2016](#) for reports –Ed.]*

Jerry Barrilleaux magiceaux@gmail.com 925 685 4577 — 



Directions to B&W Resort

From Bay Area:

take Hwy 4 toward Antioch, then take Hwy 160 toward Rio Vista, turn right onto Hwy 12, then turn left onto Brannan Island Rd (If you cross Mokelumne Bridge, you went too far.)

From Lodi/Sacramento/Stockton/etc:

take Hwy 5 toward Hwy 12, then take Hwy 12 toward Rio Vista, cross Mokelumne River Bridge, turn right onto Brannan Island Rd.

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No Cal, So Cal, Lo Cal, Yo Cal, Stud Poker Potter Debacle

When: 05.17.19 to 05.18.19

Where: [Stockton Sailing Club](#)

A poker run on the San Joaquin Delta near someplace special: Stockton, Ca.

Sail the course in any direction or order of marks. Stop, dock and roll in to various venues and pick up your card. Best poker hand wins.

Poker run begins and finishes at the Stockton Sailing Club on Saturday, May 18. It is ok to arrive Friday afternoon at SSC and sleep on your boat at the dock. An excellent launch facility is across the street with plenty of parking.

Enjoy the SSC Friday night dinner for a nominal charge. For details, contact Juan Maritime (or Mike Kennedy) at:

museumofsail@gmail.com

Saturday evening poker results will be announced at a soiree in the Retreat area. It will be a bring-your-own-to BBQ and potluck debacle. Direct your questions to Juan. Yes, you can and should stay Saturday night on your boat at the dock. — 

(St. Pat's continued from page 1)

St. Patrick's Dinner and celebration at Coyote Point Yacht Club.



With the high tide being at 8:45 a.m., it was an 8 foot falling ebb tide for most of the day until the low tide at 4:10 p.m. We mostly motor-sailed out as the winds were low, but the winds gradually increased to between 5-10 knots as the day went on.

As we headed out Redwood Creek towards the Bay, the usual obstacles presented themselves.



Photo: Phil Marcellis



While some motor-sailed out of the channel to the bay, others were able to make the most of the light winds.

The high tide enabled us to cut over the southward shallows from the channel towards the Thompson before channel marker number 5.



Photo: Phil Marcelis



Photo: Phil Marcelis

We arrived at the Thompson just a couple of hours after high tide, so only the higher portions of the battleship wreck were visible above the surface.



The usual hoards of black cormorants that inhabit the wreck must have been off on a breakfast hunt, since all we saw were a few seagulls perched on the remains of the battleship.



Rob Sampson was first to arrive, but headed north to Coyote Point to meet up with other Potter Yachters who were gathering there. I was the next to arrive, followed by Phil, Jon, and Harry.



Photo: Phil Marcelis

Phil, Jon, Harry, and myself rafted-up to enjoy a very peaceful and scenic picnic lunch on our impromptu flotilla on the South Bay.

As the winds picked up after lunch, sailors explored the waters surrounding the wreck.



After lunch, the boats peeled off and each went their own way. Harry and I intended to head back to the Redwood City Marina, while Phil and the others headed north under the San Mateo Bridge to the Coyote Point Yacht Club for a rendezvous with other Potter Yachters.



Initially, I followed Phil but didn't realize that I had overshot the long sand spit that marks the route back to Redwood City, until the shoreline became unrecognizable and I found a lonely channel marker 12, at which point I let Harry know I had gone too far north and was turning around, to which he replied that he had made the same mistake. After the course correction, there was no problem getting back to the Marina.



Guest dock at Coyote Point Yacht Club

Although I was not in attendance at the subsequent Coyote Point Yacht Club dinner and St. Patty's Day celebration, I understand that the hospitality, food, company, and entertainment were top notch. Many thanks to the Coyote Point Yacht Club for a fine event!

Attending Potter Yachters at the Coyote Point Yacht Club included Phil Marcelis (West Wight Potter 19), Rob Sampson (Ranger Tug, *Mud Hen*), Mike Kennedy (West Wight Potter 15), Jon Barber (Monty 17), Mark and Cynthia Sabin (ComPac SunCat), and Dave and Francesca Kautz (Catalina 26, *Zoe*). Jim Hunt with crew Kevin Crowder (Santana 2023c, *Blue Moon*) sailed over from Alameda, Goose and Gail (custom modified Sprinter camping van) drove in from Benicia, and Jim Hunt’s parents arrived by car to join the CPYC dinner.



Dave Kautz, Rob Sampson, Bill Rinehart (CPYC Port Captain), Francesca Kautz, Mike Kennedy

As a post-script, we note that the familiar blue historic tank-topped Peninsula Yacht Club Building and Club have succumbed to the forces of profit-taking, subdivision and development. We will miss the many great St. Patrick’s Day celebrations and wonderful times that we enjoyed there.

And we will never forget old “Patty the Pirate.” Our enduring thanks and gratitude to the great people of the Peninsula Yacht Club! — 🚩



News from the Richmond Boat Show

by Phil Marcelis

It was quite rainy on Friday morning when I drove over to the [Pacific Sail & Power Boat Show](#) on April 5th. Once inside the Craneway Pavilion, however, the rain was soon forgotten. Perusing the aisles, I drooled over all the things I wanted to buy (and also noted that there are a lot of things I want, but few I actually need), then ran into Dave & Francesca Kautz just as it was nearing lunchtime. When Dan Phy walked up, we figured we had enough to fill a table so we went around the side of the building to the [Assemble Restaurant](#).

After lunch, we headed over to the outdoor “boat display” section. Thankfully, the rain had cleared up by then and it was pleasant walking the docks and admiring all the boats, inside and out.

In a prime location – right at the entrance to the docks – we found Ken Lange showing off his [Malbec 18](#), which was reviewed in Small Craft Advisor. [See <https://wp.me/a9BoKG-cm> -Ed.]

The weather wasn’t looking any better for Saturday, and since Dan had already had great sailing the day or two before, he decided to retrieve and drive home in sunshine.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t make it Saturday or Sunday... Maybe someone will email their account of the weekend.

Still, it was an enjoyable day with some good folks. You can’t ask for more than that! — 



Potter Yachter Membership

Join the *Potter Yachters* – the club that has been around since 1978 and, with your participation, will continue to withstand the test of time. We’re really a bunch of nice folks who would just love to have other nice folks join us. Your dues help support club activities and publish the newsletter, so you can join us on sails in person or vicariously through our stories. Annual dues are \$25 per family.

Make checks payable to “Kevin Crowder” and include “Potter Yachters Dues” in the notes.



Or see us online at:
www.potter-yachters.org

Send your payment (with your name and address) to: Kevin Crowder
P.O. Box 124
Standard, CA 95373

Organized in Northern California in 1978, the *Potter Yachters* is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to anyone interested in West Wight Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sailboats.



Kevin Crowder
P.O. Box 124
Standard, CA 95373

With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the **Potter Yachter** that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal experience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication).

- The Editor

